

Wall Of Honor



[Link](#)

Wall of Honor

P. K. Burleson

PK is a Charter Member of the BFRG. We will show all of his contributions to our group in links on this page. His interest in Genealogy started many years ago. PK was the first Burleson in NC to establish his ancestry line back to Isaac Burleson Sr. for acceptance in the Sons of the American Revolution. He arranged for the government to provide a tombstone to mark the grave of Isaac Burleson. PK organized a Marker Dedication Ceremony to be conducted by the Alamance Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution. He hired a professional genealogist to document the origins of the Burleson name and our family crest.



PK & HAZEL BURLERSON

Native of Albemarle, N. C.

- Graduated from Albemarle High School
- Enlisted in Army Air Corp, December 12, 1942, WWII and he received the Bronze Star
- Attended Air University & Officers' Training School at Gunter Air Force Base in Montgomery, Alabama
- Holds a Commercial Pilot License & Instructor's License

Employment:

- Chrysler Corporation, Representative
- Electronics, Management
- Antique Business: Burlwood Farm Antiques
- Private Instruction – Wood Working: Furniture
- Alamance Community College Instructor: Advance Woodworking (presently 2 Classes weekly)

Church affiliation:

- Deacon, First Baptist Church, Burlington, N. C.
- Married ~ Wife, Hazel, Son, Jerry, 2 grandsons, 1 Granddaughter

First Burleson in N. C. to qualify for the Sons of the American Revolution status SAR, when Helen Kelso, of the Burleson Family Association in Texas, receives inquiries regarding SAR and DAR affiliation, she makes reference to the fact P. K. has already been approved in this regard.

(His family line)

by Hazel Burleson



PK BURLESON WWII



HAZEL BURLESON

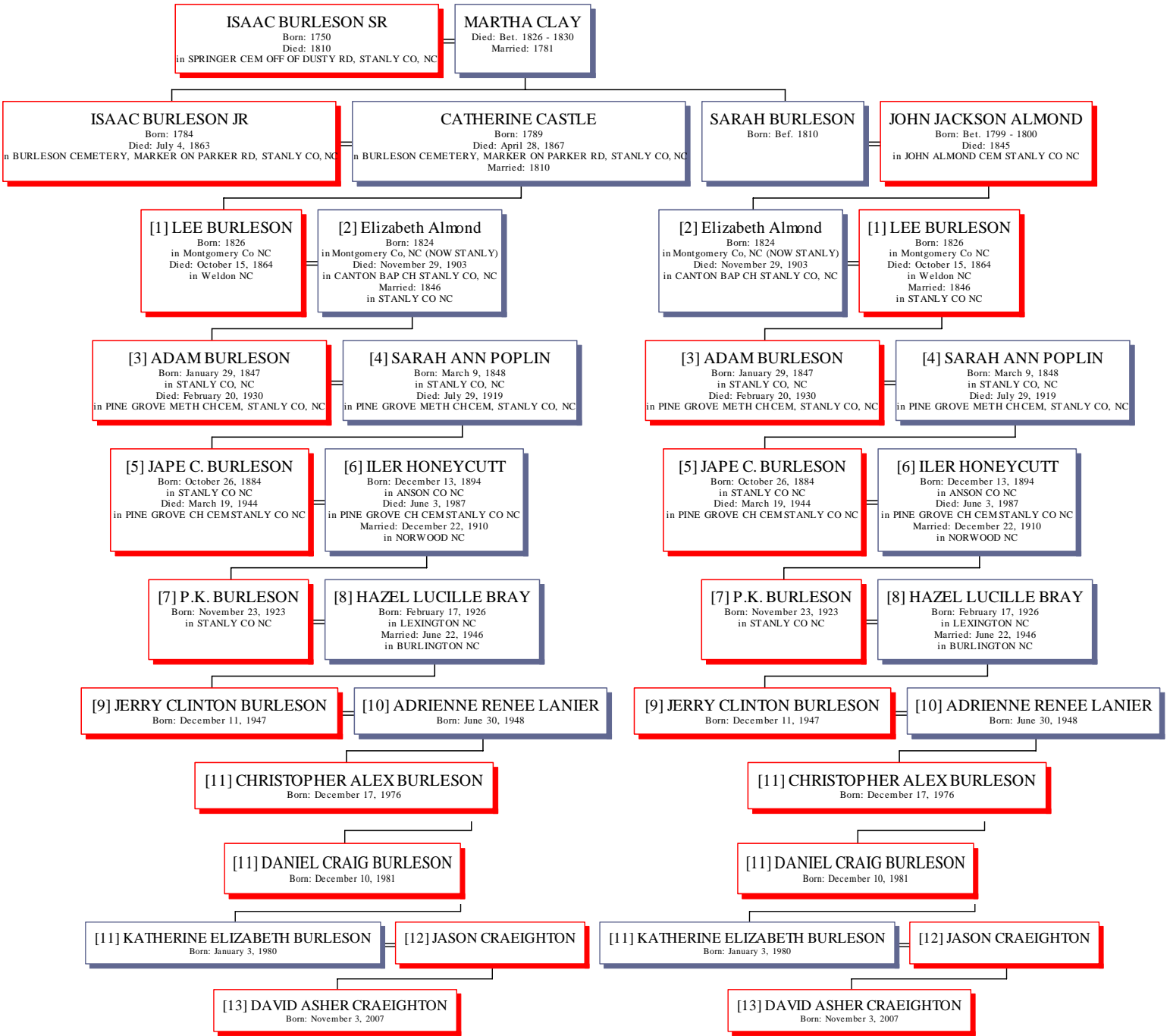


PK & HAZEL, center, Daniel beside Hazel, Larry Chandler & his family on the right,



PK at Isaac Burleson Sr. Grave

Direct Descendants of ISAAC BURLESON SR



ancestry line back to Isaac Burleson Sr. for acceptance in the Sons of the American Revolution

The National Society
of the
Sons of the American Revolution



This Certifies That
P K BURLESON
is a member of
THE NORTH CAROLINA SOCIETY

By descent from ISAAC BURLESON

Date of Admission DECEMBER 5, 1989

National Number 133956

State Number 1884

James R. Westlake
President General
James R. Ceebo
Secretary General

Thomas R. Lopping
State President
George N. Bass
State Secretary



The National Society
of the
Sons of the American Revolution



P. K. BURLESON COLONIAL COLOUR GUARD
The Alamance Battleground Chapter, NCSAR

has been awarded

The President General's Activities Award

to the Chapter which shows the best all around
activities supporting the goals of the Sons of the American Revolution.



108th Congress
Orlando, Florida
June 6 - 10, 1998
Date

Carl K. Hoffmann
President General

ALAMANC

magazine



PK BURLESON

olutionary War ancestors are remembered.

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Marker Dedication Ceremony

Honoring the Grave of a Revolutionary War Soldier

May 28, 1995 by PK. Burleson

In 1988 I was invited to become a member of the Battleground Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution here in Burlington, N. C. However, there was the requirement that I must prove that I actually was a descendant from a Revolutionary War ancestor; thus began my Burleson family research.

My first endeavor was a trip to Raleigh, NC, --NC Department of Archives-- where I began an exhaustive search through Census Records, Birth Certificates, Marriage Bonds/Certificates, Wills, Deeds, and Landsale Records.

Eventually, I was able to verify four Burleson generations beginning with Jape C. Burleson (b. Oct 26, 1884), Adam Burleson (b. Jan 29, 1847), Lee Burleson (b. 1826), and Isaac Burleson Jr. (b. 1784). During this lengthy process, I did secure the assistance of a Professional Genealogist who was able to provide additional Burleson information working toward completion at this point.

Information on the next generation back was that of Isaac Burleson, Sr. which seemed to be more difficult to establish. Fortunately in the fall of 1991, I was referred to Thurman Burleson who, supposedly, had much information on Burleson families, and who was a active member of the Burleson Family Association, Dallas, Texas; and, further, had attended several of the Annual Meetings.

Thurman and I had several telephone conversations and he confirmed the Burleson information which

I had been able to assemble. When I mentioned the fact that I had been unable to find a record of Isaac Burleson being in the military, he immediately gave me information that Isaac Burleson's enlistment was in South Carolina (my search had been in NC only). Records confirmed his enlistment was with the 5th SC Regiment-Revolutionary War-April 16, 1776. Thurman and I had planned to meet in January 1992, however, his death occurred earlier.

In the meantime, my SAR application was approved and I officially became a member of the local SAR Chapter on Dec 5, 1989. Later this SAR Chapter indicated a desire to honor this Revolutionary War Patriot.

In the spring of 1995, I contacted Thurman Burleson's son, Ronnie Burleson of Richfield, NC who was able to point out the grave site of Isaac Burleson in the Ruben Springer Burial Ground, Stanly County, off of Dusty Road (NC 1226). A publication in the Stanly County Library --Private Cemeteries & Burial Grounds-- confirmed this information and stated, further, he was the first person to be buried at this location.

I then applied for a headstone through the Department of Veteran Affairs, who confirmed Isaac's Military Service in the Revolutionary War after 184 years. This headstone, complete with lettering, was received from the Georgia Marble Company.

A contact was made with the present owner of this particular property, Dale Burris of Oakboro, NC, who gave permission for this headstone to be installed. At 11:00 AM, May 5, 1995, Ronnie Burleson, my brother Aaron and Gretchen Burleson of Burlington, NC, JD & Karol Burleson, of Thomasville, NC, Thomas N. and Martha Clark, of Burlington, NC, Hoey & Stella Burleson Curlee, and Wilma Burleson Harris of Albemarle, NC, Hazel Burleson and I erected this headstone beside the slate marker, along with the Bronze Patriot Seal.

On May 28, 1995 the SAR Color Guard, dressed in Colonial Uniforms, comprised of Richard J. Moore, E.E Sharpe, Nat Clark, and myself led the solemn Ceremony. The unveiling of the Marker was by Jerry Burleson and Christopher Burleson --5th & 6th great-grandsons; the laying of the Wreath was by Katie and Daniel Burleson --6th generation grandchildren. (Randleman, NC)



Others participating in the Dedication were Dr. Charles E. Page, former Chaplain General of the National Society SAR, Mrs Hazel B. Burleson, Regent of the Battle of Alamance Chapter DAR, Raymond Donnell, President of the Alamance Battleground Chapter SAR, and Thomas N. Clark, President of the NC Society SAR.

Refreshments were served to approximately 80 of the Burleson descendants and SAR participants.

tombstone



BURLESON FAMILY AND COAT OF ARMS

The Burleson family and the Burleson family name is of English origin, with the name being of the surname type known as an occupational name. The Old English or Saxon language had the word burle meaning "to dress or finish cloth" by removing the small burs or knots of thread sometimes formed in weaving. That produced an original name of Burle, and the son of Burle became Burleson. The name appeared in northern England near the Scotch border very early, for ancient English records mention a certain Hugo Burleson by the year 1202, and there is also mention of a John Byrleson by about 1210. That difference in spelling was often found in all family names. The Burleson family came to America prior to the American Revolution, and the Census of 1790 (the first census ever taken for the United States) listed no less than six Burleson families in North Carolina. Two of those families, the families of David Burleson and Isaac Burleson, were living in Montgomery County in 1790, and they were in that area of Montgomery County which was later cut off to form the new county of Stanly.

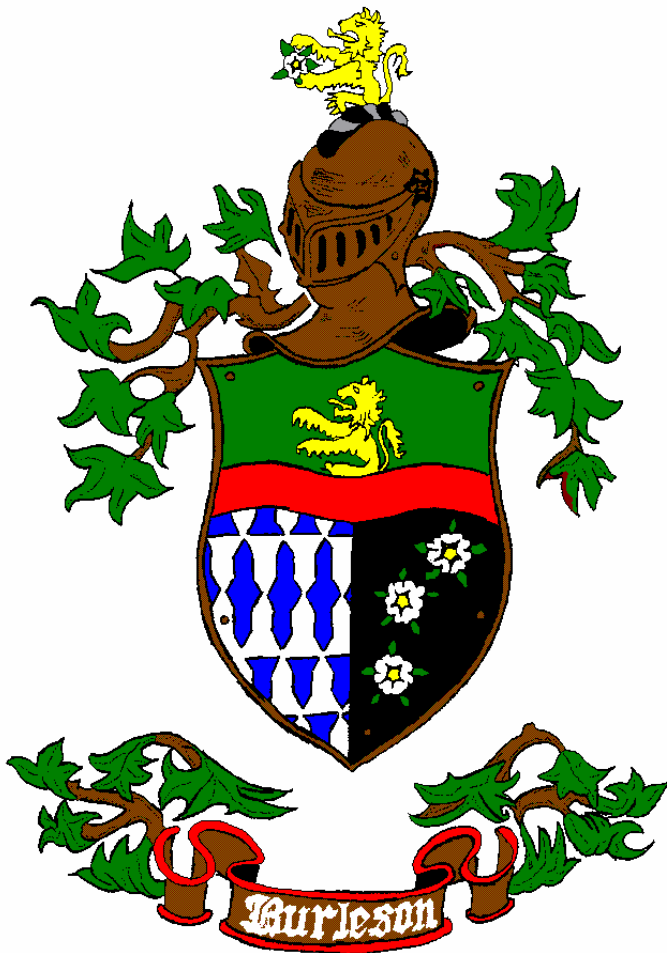
The Burleson coat of arms follows:

ARMS: Per fesse; a fesse wavy gules, chief part vert, a lion rampant or; the base per pale. dexter side vaire, the sinisterside sable, three roses argent.

CREST: A demi-lion rampant or, holding in paws a rose argent, barbed vert and seeded or.

Note: That description of the Burleson coat of arms means that the shield is per fesse (meaning divided into upper and lower halves), with a fesse wavy (meaning a horizontal band across the middle of the shield) which is of gules (red) color. The upper part of the shield above the wavy red fesse is of vert (green) color with a lion rampant (meaning a lion that is reared up on its hind legs) and of or (Gold) color with red eyes and claws. The base or bottom part of the shield

below the wavy red fesse is also divided per pale (meaning divided by a vertical line from top to bottom). The dexter side of the base is of vaire (meaning of mixed silver and blue colors in sort of that-shaped figures, the whole thing being a symbol of the very fine fur that was known as vaire and which was worn by members of noble or royal families in medieval times). The sinister side of the base is of sable (black), with three roses of argent (silver) which have barbs of vert (green), and the seeds in the center are of or (gold). The crest above the helmet is a demi-lion or half-lion rampant or reared up and of or (gold), the lion holding between its paws a silver rose like those, on the shield. There is no motto, but earliest coats of arms had no motto, so its absence is proof of antiquity. The wavy red band across the shield is symbolic of sword belts worn by knights and fighting men. The lion on the shield and in the crest is a symbol of strength and courage. The vaire color in part of the base indicates some relationship, possibly by service or kinship, to those of high rank. The roses were symbols of beauty, grace, joy and hope. The colors of the arms also have meaning. Red is the symbol of courage and valor, Green is the symbol of charity, hope and sturdiness; black is the symbol of dignity, constancy and nobility; gold is the symbol of generosity and elevation of mind; and silver is the symbol of peace,



innocence and sincerity. --- LUTHER N. BYRD, Elon College, N.C.



Peter Schumacher / Times-News

P.K. Burleson, second from left, and his students, from left, Richard Morin, Larry M. Isley and Jerry T. Soyars stand beside their grandfather clocks Feb. 27 that they built under Burleson's tutelage.

A love for woodworking ingrained

Man made about 90 percent of his home furniture

P.K. Burleson can make a rare claim: He made about 90 percent of the furniture in his house.

Burleson said he grew up around woodworking. His father, Jape Burleson, did carpentry work.

He's had the hobby for much of his adult life, though he has focused on it more since he retired from Womack Electronics in 1982.

Burleson, a native of Stanley County, has been in Alamance County since 1946. He and his wife, Hazel, have lived in their home in the southern part of the county since 1978.

A lot of people probably remember Hazel Burleson from her 39 years with the city of Burlington, where she was administrative assistant to the city manager.

Burleson said he's done woodworking for decades.

"I used to come home at night and go out and work a little bit," he said.

Burleson has had his backyard workshop since he and his wife moved to their home. With wood-

REAL PEOPLE
with
Mike Wilder

stove heat, it's a good hangout any time of year.

He learned a lot by repairing older furniture and seeing how it

was made. He also taught himself a lot: "I picked it up reading books and magazines."

He and his wife's interest in antiques is one reason he started making different styles of furniture, Burleson said he'd see something and say, "I believe I could make this."

A lot of times, he'll construct a

piece based on something he sees in a magazine.

"I like Chippendale and Queen Anne," he said of his favorite furniture styles. "I build things really traditional like they were built many years ago — all solid wood. No plywood."

He uses a lot of old-fashioned, time-consuming techniques such as dovetail joints that fasten pieces of wood together.

Walnut is his favorite wood for making furniture. The wood he uses depends on what he's making, though: "If you're making a Chippendale mirror, they're

See **LOVE INGRAINED**/Page A2

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See **LOVE INGRAINED**/Page A2

LOVE INGRAINED

Continued from Page A1

always made out of mahogany."

The home's furnishings include a large oval dining room table, flat-back and corner cupboards, chests of drawers and poster beds.

He doesn't make chairs, Burleson said.

"In the old days, there were chair-makers," he explained, and that was an area other

furniture-makers avoided.

Burleson has made more than 50 grandfather clocks and teaches other people how to make them. One of his students counted the number of wooden pieces that go into a clock and found there are 110 of them.

Burleson and his students make the pieces themselves; they don't come in a kit.

He even makes his own dustpans from tin, adding a wooden handle. He started, Burleson said, because most of the plastic ones you can buy are hard to use to scoop up dirt and dust.

Some of what he does is

repair. People might ask him to fix a rocking chair or replace a table leg.

Burleson taught woodworking at Alamance Community College for several years in the 1980s and plans to teach an advanced woodworking course there this fall.

Burleson said he likes to see other people learn to enjoy what he does.

He said it would also be a good financial opportunity for people who are talented at making furniture.

"There's a big demand for custom-built furniture," he said. "Young people could do this."

Jason Creighton, 25, is one of Burleson's students. He just finished a grandfather clock.

"There will be many more to come," he said. Creighton, a Reidsville resident who does contracting work, said learning to do detailed woodworking has helped in his profession.

Burleson has also done oil painting. Two landscapes he painted many years ago hang in the home's living room.

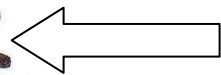
At 83, he has a sense of humor about his age.

He said he'll be teaching the woodworking class "if I'm still with us. At my age, you don't buy green bananas."

City-County Magazine • March, 2002

Of special interest the last three years has been the Road Show, sponsored in conjunction with the Antiques Fair. Just like the famous one on television, fair-goers are encouraged to bring in an antique or collectible and have it evaluated by a distinguished panel of experts. The experts this year include Pete Burleson and Bill Vincent of Burlington as well as Leland Little from Hillsborough.

"The appraisals have been fairly



Advanced woodworking, taught by a master

By SIMS OSBORNE
Staff Writer

Reading the Alamance Community College course catalog, the course description doesn't really sound all that interesting: Woodworking, advanced. P. K. Burleson, instructor. In this class, you will learn advanced methods of woodworking and use these skills to make a grandfather clock or other advanced item.

Rarely have words fallen so short of reality.

The first hint—and it's a big one—of what you're getting into is the location of the class. The course catalog has it listed simply as "Burleson's shop." But go here, and you know you're in for something special.

Peter "P. K." Burleson lives and works in the southern part of the county, down NC 49, past Southern High School, near Cedarock Park. There you will find his home and workshop.

Friday morning, Burleson was working in the shop with two students of the ACC advanced woodworking class, Foyle Alexander and Reid Dusenberry, who also serves as an ACC trustee. Alexander was just completing a square end table. "I have them make a table,



Alexander's table. "Dovetails," he says, pointing out the carved wooden notches joining two different panels of a drawer. "Best joints in the world, solid wood. They won't come out unless you rip the wood apart." If ever students have ever

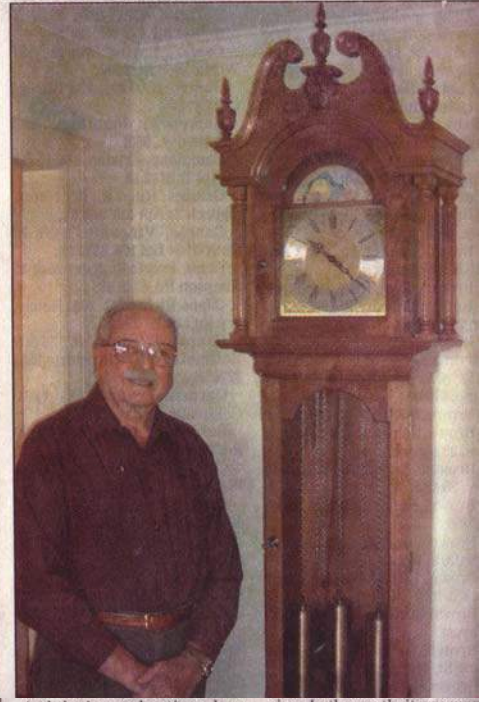


Burleson, "and I'd like to see more young people get into woodworking."

Currently, Burleson has nine students, all of them through ACC. He previously taught for ACC in the 1980s, and has also taught privately for many years.

Teaching, for Burleson, is as much a matter of collaboration as of instructions. "Lots of guys come for a year or two and work with me," he says of his private teaching. "They help me and I help them. Lots of times you just need someone to work with you and hold something."

Out of Burleson's workshop has come furniture that a museum would envy. Every room in his house is filled with fine



pine. In the north, it was maple or poplar.

"Over the years, you learn these things," he says modestly. For many years, Burleson worked in the antiques business. From time to time, he has worked antique auctions as an appraiser. From his knowledge of antiques, he has an artist's eye as well as a craftsman's skill.

"Since P. K.'s been in the antiques business, he knows the right form," puts in his wife, (See **WOODWORKING 10**

woodworking.)

wood furniture, most of it made personally by him. "I really like the eighteenth century," says Burleson, "particularly the Chippendale and Queen Anne styles. "I made that," he says, indicating one piece of furniture. "That one was a student.

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P.K. Burleson hovers over a lathe (above). Some of his woodworking handiwork is evident throughout his home, including a grandfather clock (right) and a dining room table, hutch, and sideboard (left) where he talks with Reid Dusenberry, both one of Burleson's students and a member of the community college's board of trustees.

few months that he's been an ACC instructor. "He called me," explains Dusenberry, who has taken classes privately with Burleson in the past "and said 'I'd like to teach. Can I do it through ACC?'"

"I love teaching," says

wood furniture, most of it made personally by him. "I really like the eighteenth century," says Burleson, "particularly the Chippendale and Queen Anne styles. "I made that," he says, indicating one piece of furniture. "That one was a student.

and then they can make anything they want," explains Burleson. And he isn't exaggerating. His students have made grandfather clocks, dining chairs, vases, corner cabinets—"one of the tougher pieces to make, I think," mentions Dusenberry—and just about everything else that can be made out of wood.

"See these joints?" asks Burleson, indicating

learned by watching and doing, they do so with Burleson.

"I had one guy who made a grandfather clock for his second project," the craftsman and teacher recalls. "He'd just watch in the shop to see how it was done. And then he said he wanted to make one, and he did." Admittedly, says Burleson, that student was the exception.

Burleson has been teaching for years, but it's only in the past



marble-top table (the completed table is now in a bedroom). The two of them spent days looking through the authoritative book on antique furniture, *Fine Points of Furniture*, by Albert Sacks. The book is colloquially known as *Good, Better, Best* for its three-comparisons of furniture. The book compares three items of similar styles at a time, labeling them good, better and best.

Eventually, says Burleson, he had a good idea of how the legs of a marble-top table ought to look (round and not overly thin).

"That's the difference between somebody like me and Pete," says Dusenberry. "He knows how things ought to look."

It was antiques, says Burleson, that really got him into furniture making. "I'd see a really, really, nice old piece, a choice piece, sitting out there in

And some people just have no clue, they'll just throw it away."

From there, Burleson got into making his own furniture. "I've always been interested in woodwork," he says. "My whole family was mechanically-minded."

Burleson's family is from Albemarle, but he has lived in Alamance County since 1946. "I came here for a visit, and somehow or other, somebody caught me," he says, winking at his wife, herself a Davidson County native.

Back in the shop, Burleson lets his abilities shine. Turning on a lathe, he selects a tool and carves a perfect, circular groove in a round piece of wood. "This is just practice," he says. "Working on the lathe is fun. It's where you can do whatever you want and let your artistic side come out."

"He makes it look easy," says Alexander. "When he does it, it's just like carving butter."

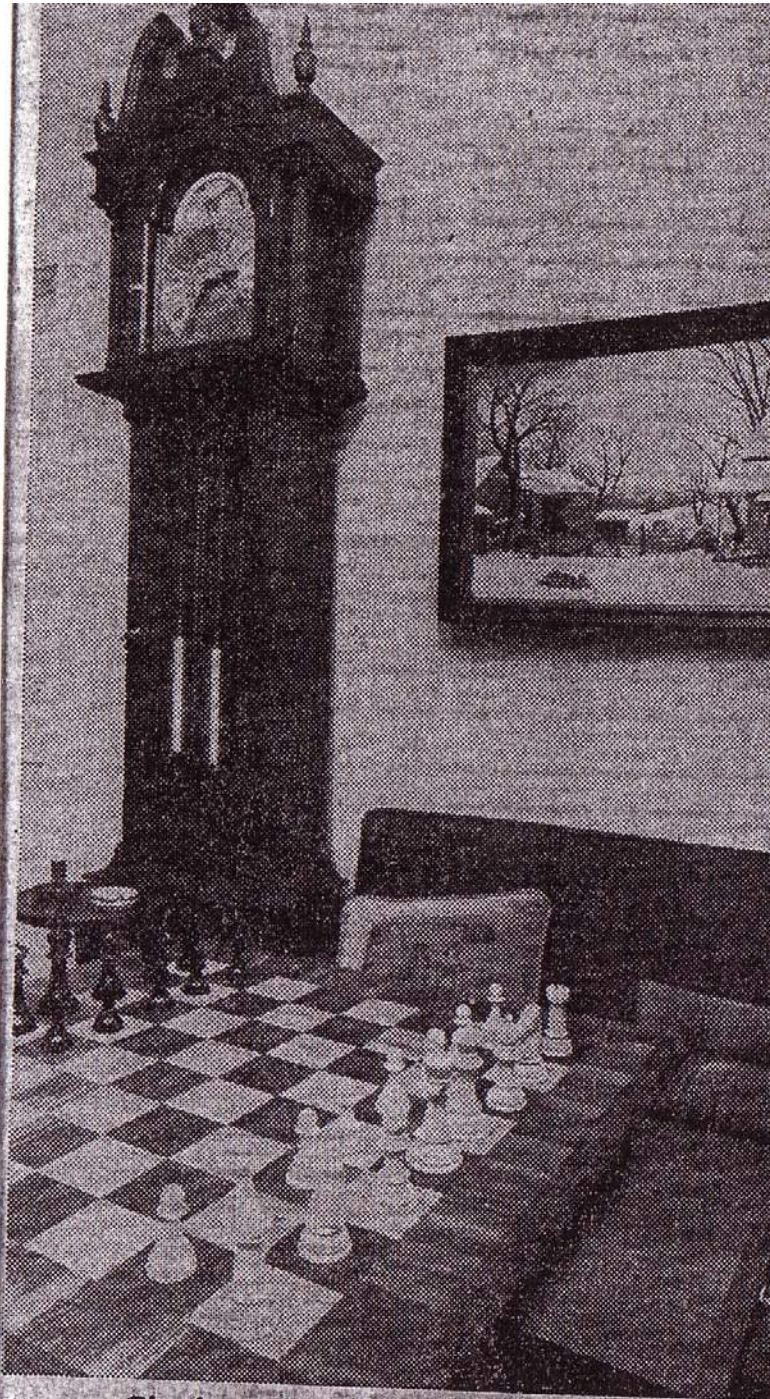
Woodworking

(Continued from 8A)

Hazel. "You don't just put square legs on a round table." She goes on to relate how Burleson once had a slab of marble and decided to make a

a barn somewhere because it had something wrong with it. I'd take it home and fix it up."

There was a great market, Burleson found, for fine furniture repairs. "Everyone's going to have something that has something wrong with, a broken [chair] back or something.



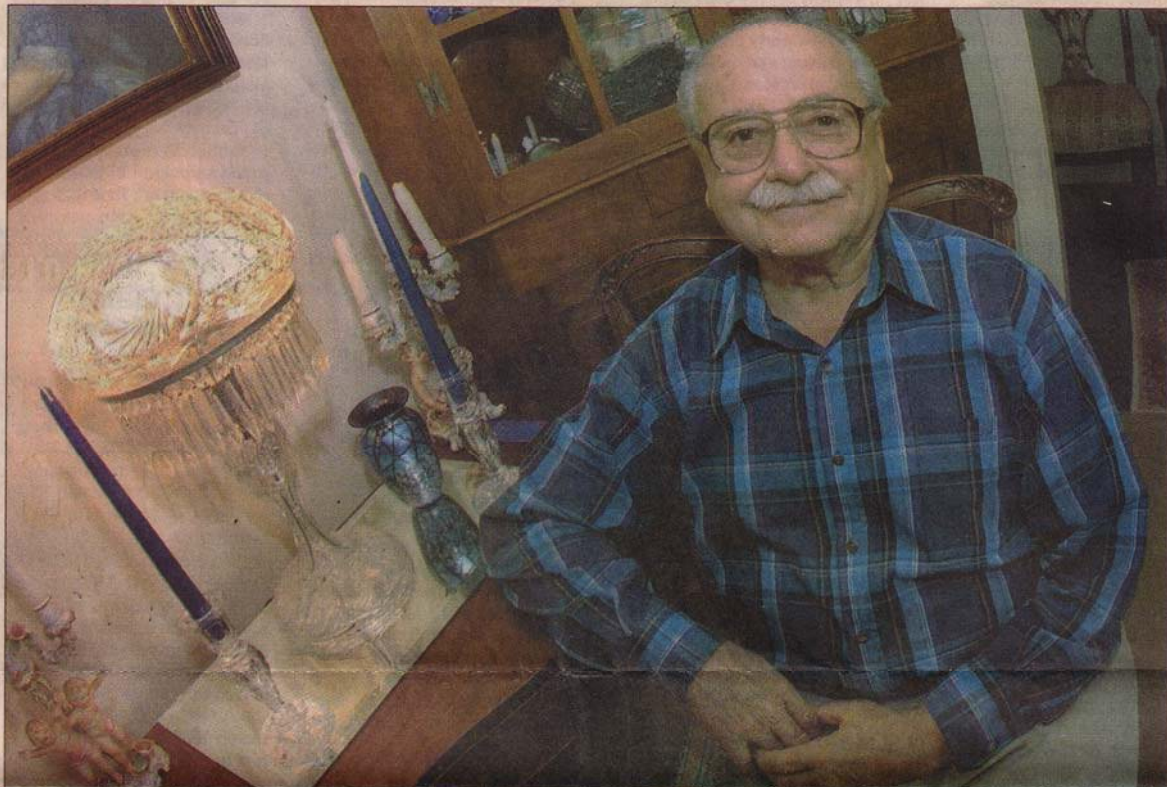
**Clock, Painting and Chessboard
Were All Made by P.K. Burleson**

He gives most of what he makes to relatives and friends for the cost of the lumber and parts, he said.

But there is another reason, Burleson said. He

just wants to do it. And long as his hobby remains a hobby, and doesn't become another job, he'll keep making walnut furniture the classical tradition.

Some things old



Peter Schumacher / Times-News

Pete Burlison is one of those who will be evaluating antiques for area residents during next weekend's 40th annual Burlington Antiques Fair. He's shown with an antique cut glass lamp.

Finding history at Burlington's Antiques Fair

By Tom Dillon
Times-News

There's no better way to underscore the value of the Burlington Antiques Fair than to relate some of the pieces of Alamance County history that have cropped up there through the years.

Take the case of Lemuel Lynch, a silversmith active from the 1830s to the 1850s in the Back Creek area of what became Alamance County.

"I'd heard about him, but I'd never seen any of his work," remembered Bill Vincent of the Alamance County Historical Museum. Vincent is one of the appraisers who work what the fair calls its "road show" each year.

But then, two years ago,

someone brought in some silver flatware — large serving spoons and a punch ladle, among other things — that obviously were marked with Lynch's identification.

It was one of the more memorable events during the four years that he's worked the road show, Vincent said. "I'd

known for years that Lemuel Lynch was a silversmith here," he said. And there was the proof.

There's no telling whether any other such pieces of the past will pop up during this year's 40th annual fair, set March 15-17 at the Fairchild Community Center at 827 S.

If you go . . .

40th annual Burlington Antiques Fair

- Fairchild Community Center, 827 S. Graham-Hopedale Rd.
■ 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. March 15; 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. March 16;
noon to 5 p.m. March 17.
- Road Show 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. March 15;
10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 3 p.m. March 16.
- Tickets \$3 one day, \$4 three days; appraisals \$5 per item
(or \$12 for three items)
- For more information, call 538-8108 (and see story on D3)

Graham-Hopedale Road. But it's always fascinating to see. "It's remarkable some of the things that are brought in," Vincent said.

This year's fair will take place from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Friday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday and noon to 5 p.m. Sunday. Road show hours are 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. Friday, and 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday. Set up for the show will begin by the middle of next week.

Some 34 antiques dealers from all across the Southeast have so far registered to participate in this year's fair, said co-chairman Helen Brennan, and several thousand people

See **ANTIQUES**/Page D3

Hoping for fair weather

By CHRIS CARY
Times-News

The weather was not friendly toward Alamance County's Country Fair the past two years.

"It rained on Friday and Saturday for two years in a row," organizer Jeanette Isley said. "Otherwise those would have been our biggest days."

But fair organizers have come up with a way to improve the odds of having clear weekend skies this year: The fair will cover two weekends.

In years past, the fair has gone on for six days. This year, the fair will run for nine days beginning Friday and ending Sept. 2.

The fair attracted about 15,000 people in 1994, Isley said.

There will be exhibits in nine categories, with nearly 500 sub-categories. Along with livestock, field crops and garden vegetables, exhibits can be entered in categories as varied as iced cupcakes, stained glass and potato decorating.

Pete Burleson won the "best of fair" award last year for his wood-framed mirror. He said his entry this year is a table.

"I am going to enter a Chipendale game table," he said. "It has wood inlays of a sunburst and bellflowers."

Burleson said he comes from a woodworking family and made all the furniture in his house. The table, he said, took time and patience.

"Some of the intricate work on the legs took a month or so," he said. "I worked on it a little now and then."



Jerome Sturm / Times-News

Pete Burleson plans to enter this game table in the Alamance County fair.



Photos by Jack Sir

SECRETARY-DESK — P.K. Burleson of Burl-wood Farm Antiques shows the hand-planed underside of a drawer from the one-of-a-kind walnut secretary-desk that will highlight his

display at the Burlington Antiques Fair. The secretary-desk, considered a museum piece is of Southern origin, circa 1825, and features a handsome cornice and original finish.